

THE CLAIMS

It is claimed:

1 1. A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the
2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output
3 an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal
4 into a stimulus, the computer system having a volume control that controls the
5 amplitude of the electrical signal, the method comprising:

- 6 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
7 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the
8 computer program setting the volume control;
9 c) generating a stimulus; and
10 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user
11 heard the stimulus.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the
3 Internet.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an
3 email.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from
3 a single audio source.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the channel balance between electrical
3 signals from a single audio source.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from
3 a Wave source.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from
3 a stream of digital audio data generated by the computer program.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from
3 a plurality of audio sources.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the channel balance of electrical
3 signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes setting a first volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals
3 from a single audio source and setting a second volume control that controls the
4 amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes setting a first volume control that controls the channel balance of electrical
3 signals from a single audio source and setting a second volume control that controls
4 the channel balance of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further including:
2 a) sending first data to the server;
3 b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and
4 c) sending second data to the computer.

1 13. A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the
2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output
3 an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal
4 into a stimulus, the computer system having a volume control that controls the
5 amplitude of the electrical signal, the method comprising:
6 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;

- 7 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the
- 8 computer program storing a value of the volume control and setting the
- 9 volume control;
- 10 c) generating a stimulus;
- 11 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user
- 12 heard the stimulus; and
- 13 e) resetting the volume control to the stored values.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of downloading the computer
2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer
3 via the Internet.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of downloading the computer
2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer
3 via an email.

1 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical
3 signals from a single audio source and setting a volume control that controls the
4 amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source.

1 17. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical
3 signals from a Wave audio source and setting a volume control that controls the
4 amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave audio source.

1 18. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical
3 signals from a Wave audio source and setting a volume control that controls the
4 amplitude of electrical signals from a stream of digital audio data that was generated
5 within the computer program.

1 19. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical

3 signals from a plurality of audio sources and setting a volume control that controls the
4 amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 20. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2 includes storing the value of a first volume control that controls the amplitude of
3 electrical signals from a single audio source, storing the value of a second volume
4 control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio
5 sources, setting a first volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals
6 from a single audio source, and setting a second volume control that controls the
7 amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 21. The method of claim 13, further including:
2 a) sending first data to the server;
3 b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and
4 c) sending second data to the computer.

1 22. A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that,
2 when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the hearing of a
3 user by:
4 a) setting the volume control of the computer;
5 b) generating a stimulus; and
6 c) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the
7 stimulus.

1 23. The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume
2 control includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical
3 signals from a Wave audio source.

1 24. The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume
2 control includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical
3 signals from a stream of digital audio data generated within the computer program.

1 25. The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume
2 control includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical
3 signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 26. The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume
2 control includes setting a first volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical
3 signals from a single audio source and setting a second volume control that controls
4 the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 27. A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that,
2 when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the hearing of a
3 user by:

- 4 a) storing the value of the volume control
- 5 b) setting the volume control;
- 6 c) generating a stimulus;
- 7 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user
8 heard the stimulus; and
- 9 e) resetting the volume control to the stored value.

1 28. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source.

1 29. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave audio source.

1 30. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a stream of digital audio data generated within the
4 computer program.

1 31. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 32. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a first volume control that controls
3 the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source and storing the value of
4 a second volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a
5 plurality of audio sources.

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